

Irantxe language

Irantxe (Iranxe, Iranshe), also known as **Müñkü** (Mÿky), is an indigenous American language that is spoken in Mato Grosso, Brazil, by about 200 people. It is generally left unclassified due to lack of data. The most recent descriptions treat it as a language isolate, saying that it "bears no similarity with other language families" (Arruda 2003), though this may not be based on new data (Monserrat 2010).

Monserrat (2010) is a well-reviewed grammar.

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Irantxe	
Irántxe-Müñkü	
<i>Manoki</i>	
Native to	Brazil
Region	Mato Grosso
Ethnicity	400 Irantxe and Mÿky (Manoki) (2019) ^[1]
Native speakers	8 (2019) ^[2]
Language family	unclassified
Dialects	Müñkü
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	irn
Glottolog	iran1263 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/iran1263) ^[3]

Status

As of 2011, the 280 Irantxe (Iránxe, Iranche, Manoki, Munku) have largely assimilated to Brazilian culture. Most are monolingual in Portuguese, and the remaining Irantxe speakers are over 50 years old. A splinter group, the Mÿky (Mynky, Müñkü, Munku, Menku, Kenku, Myy), however, moved to escape assimilation, and were isolated until 1971. As of 2011, there were 80 ethnic Mÿky, all of whom spoke the language.

Language contact

Jolkesky (2016) notes that there are lexical similarities with the Arawak, Tupi, Chapakura-Wañam, Nambikwara, and Yanomami language families due to contact.^[4]

Phonology

Monserrat posits a series of palatalized stops. For several reasons, however, reviewer D’Angelis (2011) suggests these are simply /Cj/ sequences.

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n			
<u>Stop</u>	p	t		k	ʔ
<u>Fricative</u>		s			h
<u>Approximant</u>	w	l~r	j		

/m/ is optionally [mb] word initially, especially among the Irantxe: *muhu* [mbuhu], *mjeɬy* [mbjɛhɨ́]. /s/ is pronounced [ʃ] before /j/. [r] and [l] are in free variation.

There are 28 vowels: Seven qualities, /i ɨ u ɛ ə ɔ a/, all appear long, short, and nasalized. The schwa, however, alternates with /ɛ/ in many words.

Syllables may be CjVC, though words may not end in a consonant. The role of tone is not clear.

Vocabulary

Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items.^[5]

gloss	Iranshe
one	yamachí
two	numá
head	pemã
tongue	akirente
hand	mimãchxi
woman	ekipu
water	mana :
sun	ilehe :
maize	kuratu
white	nakatá

For a more extensive vocabulary list of Irantxe by Holanda (1960),^[6] see the corresponding Portuguese article.

References

1. "Irántxe (Manoki Tribe)" (https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/bjwvqa/only-8-people-in-this-indigenous-tribe-still-speak-their-native-language-the-amazon-fires-may-wipe-it-out-completely). *Vice*.
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3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Irántxe-Münkü" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/iran1263>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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5. Loukotka, Čestmír (1968). *Classification of South American Indian languages* (<https://archive.org/details/classificationof0007louk>). Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center.
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